

**BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
INSPECTION INTERVALS FOR TRUCK MOUNTED
DRY CHEMICAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS**

PURPOSE

-The purpose of this background paper is to provide policy guideline for inspection intervals to check the condition of the dry chemical powder on truck mounted fire suppression systems.

-This paper does NOT affect hand held dry chemical fire extinguishers or facility installed suppression systems.

BACKGROUND

-The inspection interval to check the level and condition of the dry chemical powder varies greatly from manufacturer to manufacturer. Some vehicle technical manuals call for daily, after use, and weekly, while others require inspections every four months, and other manuals call for inspections every six months.

-Frequent opening of the dry chemical tank exposes the agent to moisture (from humidity) which can lead to caking of the dry chemical powder.

DISCUSSION

-The National Fire Protection Association Fire Protection Handbook, 19th Edition, dated 2003, Section 11, Chapter 4 recommends that the dry chemical agent be inspected on a semiannual basis.

-In an effort to standardize the inspection intervals, HQ AFCESA and 542 CSW have determined that the semiannual inspection interval will be used for truck mounted dry chemical fire suppression systems.

SUMMARY

- POLICY GUIDANCE IS EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2006:

The inspection interval for the level and condition of the dry chemical powder shall be not less than every six months and after any discharge of agent. This assumes that there are no obvious signs of defects, physical damage, dry chemical leakage, or tampering with the system that will require additional inspections. Refer to end item technical orders for the manufacturer's general guidelines, inspection procedures, re-supply procedures, and safety warnings and cautions for each system.

-End item technical orders will be updated to reflect this redefined policy guidance. Note, however, that it may take up to one year for publication and release of the changes and supplements to the existing technical orders.

Coordination:

GEORGE F. HALL/HQ AFCESA/CEXF, Tyndall AFB FL/DSN 523-6159

MARY B. ZAMPA/542 CSW/SEVG-GBZVS, Robins AFB GA/DSN 472-1796

Date: 29 December 2005